

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This “Listing of the Claims” replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims for this application. Deleted subject matter is in brackets and added subject matter is underlined in bold.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of employing oligonucleotide probes to obtain information on a target nucleic acid analyte containing a target sequence segment, the method comprising:

contacting the analyte, under hybridizing conditions, with at least two oligonucleotide probes, each oligonucleotide probe comprising a sequence segment complementary to the target sequence or complementary to the target sequence except at a position of interest,

wherein each of the at least two oligonucleotide probes has one nucleotide capable of base pairing with [a set of two or more nucleotides, said set of two or more nucleotides including one nucleotide common to all sets and lacking one nucleotide present in the target sequence segment] with one nucleotide of at least two sets of two or more nucleotides, said sets having one nucleotide in common and lacking one nucleotide present in the target sequence segment; and

wherein hybridization of each oligonucleotide probe to the target sequence segment under the hybridizing conditions occurs only if no mismatch exists at the position of interest, such that depending upon the identity of the nucleotide at the position of interest, all, some or none of the at least two oligonucleotide probes hybridize to the target sequence segment.

2. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein the target sequence segment of the analyte has four nucleotides and at least two oligonucleotide probes are used, each oligonucleotide probe comprising, at a position corresponding to the position of interest, a nucleotide capable of base pairing with any two of the four nucleotides present in the target sequence segment.

3. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein the target sequence segment of the analyte has at least five nucleotides and at least three oligonucleotide probes are used, each oligonucleotide probe comprising, at a position corresponding to the position of interest, a nucleotide base pairing with at least three of the at least five nucleotides present in the target sequence segment.

4. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 3 wherein the target sequence segment of the analyte has five nucleotides and three oligonucleotide probes are used, each oligonucleotide probe

comprising at a position corresponding to a variable position of the target sequence segment, a nucleotide base pairing with a set of two or three nucleotides, wherein the sets having nucleic acid sequences in common each lack at least one nucleotide not common to the sets.

5. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1 further comprising a null hybridizing sequence comprising a nucleic acid sequence complementary to the target sequence segment,

wherein the null hybridizing sequence is [base paired] **capable of base pairing** with **one of** a set of two or more nucleotides at a variable position of the target sequence segment; and

wherein a nucleotide represented in neither a first or a second set of the two or more nucleotides at the variable position is used to probe the target sequence segment.

6. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 1 used for sequencing the target nucleic acid analyte.

7. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 6[,] further comprising an array of oligonucleotide probes, wherein the sequence of the target nucleic acid analyte is determined by analysis of hybridization data obtained from the array of oligonucleotide probes.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the array comprises arrayed individual beads or particles, each bead or particle having a surface to which is attached a plurality of oligonucleotide probes of identical sequence.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the array comprises a substrate having a surface, the surface having a plurality of discrete surface sites, each site having attached a plurality of oligonucleotide probes of identical sequence.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 7 wherein [detection of a] **the** target sequence segment [hybridizing to an] **hybridized to the** oligonucleotide probe is [by detection of] **detected by** a discrete label moiety linked to the target sequence segment.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10 wherein the discrete label moiety linked to the target sequence segment comprises a nucleic acid sequence.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 10 wherein the discrete label moiety linked to the target sequence segment comprises a luminescent moiety.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 12 wherein the luminescent moiety is a chemiluminescent or fluorescent moiety.

14. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 9 wherein [detection of a] the target sequence segment [hybridizing to an oligonucleotide probe is by detection of] is detected by a target signal.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 14 wherein the [label intrinsic to the target sequence segment] target signal is ³²P.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein detection of a target sequence segment hybridizing to an oligonucleotide probe is by detection of the heat of hybridization.

17. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 6 wherein the sequencing method is by detection of labels that attach by hybridization to the target sequence segment.

18. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein hybridized target nucleic acids are amplified by a polymerase enzyme [that requires a hybridized complex for amplifying a nucleic acid sequence].

19. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 18 wherein the hybridized target nucleic acids are amplified by polymerase chain reaction.

20. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 18 wherein hybridized nucleic acids are amplified by an RNA replicase enzyme.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 19 for genetic analysis.

22. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 1 used for allelic analysis.

23. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein the target nucleic acid analyte is derived from genomic DNA.

24. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 1 wherein the target nucleic acid analyte is derived from a cDNA.

25. **(Original)** The method of claim 2 wherein the four nucleotides are A, T, C and G.

26. **(Original)** The method of claim 4 wherein the five nucleotides are A, T, C, G and I (Inosine).

27. **(Original)** The method of 6 wherein the sequencing method is by analysis of hybridization data obtained from an array of target nucleic acid analyte sequences attached to a substrate surface.

28. **(Original)** The method of 14 wherein the array comprises arrayed individual beads or particles, each bead or particle having a surface, the surface having attached a plurality of target nucleic acid analyte sequences having an identical sequence.

29. **(Original)** The method of 14 wherein the array comprises arrayed discrete sites on a substrate surface of an integrated substrate, each site having a surface, the surface having attached a plurality of target nucleic acid analyte sequences having an identical sequence.

30. **(Original)** The method of claim 14 wherein each oligonucleotide probe sequence additionally comprises a linker moiety and a label moiety.

31. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim [15] 30 wherein the linker moiety comprises a common nucleic acid sequence and the label moiety comprises a signature nucleic acid sequence that identifies the target sequence segment.

32. **(Original)** The method of claim 16 wherein the common nucleic acid sequence is double stranded.

33. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim [17] 7 wherein the array is imaged with decoder labels comprising a nucleic acid sequence complementary to the signature sequence and a second label moiety [are employed to image the array].

34. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 33 wherein the second label moiety comprises a luminescent moiety.

35. **(Original)** The method of claim 34 wherein the luminescent moiety is a fluorescent or chemiluminescent moiety.

36. **(Original)** The method of claim 14 wherein the substrate surface is functionalized with a surface modification to enhance hybridization.

37. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 36 wherein the hybridization is enhanced by increasing hybridization stringency.

38. **(Previously Amended)** The method of claim 39 wherein the electric potential at the substrate surface is electronically controlled to enhance hybridization.

39. **(Original)** The method of claim 29 wherein the integrated substrate comprises a semiconductor chip comprising electronic circuitry, wherein the electric potential at the individual array sites of the substrate surface is independently electronically controlled to enhance of hybridization.

40-114. **(Cancelled).**